## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

May 23, 2001 LB 657

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, Senator, it...it's a supplement to the other financing, that's correct.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Okay. Well, thank you, thank you. I quess, I...I disagree to some extent or to a great extent with Senator Beutler's insinuation that this is an urban-rural issue. don't think it's a rural-urban issue. This money that we're talking about, this raises the cigarette tax, goes to all across the state, it goes to the urban areas, it goes to the rural areas, it goes to state buildings, wherever they're located, wherever they have needed. It's kind of interesting to me as I...and by the way, I think they're good projects. I think what they're doing for these parti...for these two...two communities is meritorious from the standpoint that they...that it enhances the cities. So I don't have any problem with that. I guess my problem is where the money is coming from and where we're taking it from. Now, we...we've been told and we certainly respect the fact the Governor has put more money into 309 to help a chapter. Remember, these are one...one-time...one year at a time issues. Any time that they feel there is money available they can do it, buy interesting enough, if there's not enough cigarette money tax, enough money from cigarette tax raised for these particular projects, then it's going to come out of the General Fund, as I'm...as I understand it. And so they're assured that they're going to get the amount of money that's been...being requested in this piece of legislation. It's kind of interesting to me when I think back, the old time that I am, and think of the projects that have been done over the years by communities and by areas of the state and how they were paid for. And you know what, if you look back and I've looked... I've done some research on my own, the people that...that got the benefit for them...for them are the ones that paid for them. some property in southeast Nebraska, the Nemaha River runs through it. It used to be one of the crockedest rivers in the state, so they set upon the idea of straightening it. It cost at that time, today which would be in the millions and millions dollars...you know who paid for that? The taxpayers that that river ran through. Why? Because it was a benefit. river used to flood every time they had a rain up toward Lincoln somewhere, it was all over those bottoms. My Dad told about the